**Matrix Reflection Paper for TOK**

**What does The Matrix convey about reality?** Make sure to find the “knowledge issues” involved in the movie and highlight any Ways of Knowing in your answer.

In my reflection I’m going to discuss what does the matrix convey about reality by answer two questions, what is real? And How can we know what is real?

**What is real?** Reality is the main philosophic theme of the movie; Morpheus raises important questions for Neo*, "What is real? How do you define real?"*and Morpheus definition for real is *“If real is what you can feel, smell, taste and see, then 'real' is simply electrical signals interpreted by your brain”* but the movie show us the answer is incorrect. If we define reality in this way, then the Matrix would be "Real”. So how should we define real? And what *is* the difference between "appearance" and "reality"? I think real is beyond the sense perception, sense perception just a electrical signals send to your brain, your brain match up the electrical signals with your experiences and construe these to make it real. But this is not real, this just your brain makes you think it is real and real is always behind the appearance. For example, When Neo visits the Oracle in *The Matrix*, he sees a young boy in the Oracle’s living room who is bending a spoon in air. They have a conversation: “[*Spoon boy*](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0936894/)*: Do not try and bend the spoon. That's impossible. Instead... only try to realize the truth.* [*Neo*](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000206/)*: What truth?* [*Spoon boy*](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0936894/)*: There is no spoon.* [*Neo*](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000206/)*: There is no spoon?* [*Spoon boy*](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0936894/)*: Then you'll see that it is not the spoon that bends, it is only yourself”*.The boy tells him that so as to bend the spoon, Neo must bend his mind. In the Matrix, the spoon doesn’t exist, it’s just a code or a program that tells Neo’s brain, he is looking at a spoon, but Neo’s mind does exist. What he sees is not a spoon, is his brain creates the idea of a spoon; rather than create perception by his brain; he can create his own perception. There is no spoon, there is no gravity, there is no time, and all these things are lies by the machines tell his brain. He can change reality by changing his perception.

**How can we know what is real?** In the movie Morpheus raise a question for us “*Have you ever had a dream, Neo, that you were so sure was real? What if you were unable to wake from that dream? How would you know the difference between the dream world and the real world?*” so How do we know whether the things you perceive are real or just an illusion? When Morpheus tells neo "All I offer is the *Truth*." But how Morpheus knows he got it? How does he know that Zion is the real world and not another level of the Matrix? And how can he know that he is not in a matrix himself? We cannot trust our senses to prove we are real because sometimes our senses tell lies about the real world. For example, the conversation between Neo and Morpheus, “[Neo](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000206/): I thought it wasn't real. [Morpheus](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000401/): Your mind makes it real. [Neo](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000206/): If you're killed in the matrix, you die here? [Morpheus](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000401/): The body cannot live without the mind." The phase that Morpheus says, “your mind makes it real.” It suggest that is not real, just your brain make it real. We receive information from the world through light waves, sound waves, etc. Our sense organs detect them and turn them into electrical signals, which are sent to our brain, which translates them and turns them, into a representation of the world out there. So don’t believe your brain and your perception. But how can we know what is real? I don’t have a distinct answer for it.

The matrix does include a lot ways to convey about reality and make us to think deeper into the word “real”. We trying to find out what is real and how can we know what is real through sense perception, believe, emotion and reason. I think the definition for reality can be different to everyone and you can find your personal reality.

Sources: Quote come from <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0133093/quotes>